

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 2. (canceled)

3. (new) A waste collection device, comprising:

a reusable rod formed of three concentric tubes including an external tube surrounding an intermediate tube which in turn surrounds an interior tube, the rod having a top end and a bottom end;

a handle affixed to the top end of the reusable rod, the handle articulated with a lever for moving the intermediate tube;

an end sleeve formed on the bottom end of the rod, the end sleeve configured with two diametrical grooves;

a pair of rake elements attached at the bottom end of the rod, the rake elements configured at a top portion to correspondingly pass through the grooves on the end sleeve and attach to a bottom end of the intermediate tube inside the rod, each rake element having parallel side arms provided with protruding interior flaps;

a disposable capsule configured to engage with the pair of rake elements, the capsule comprising two shells, each shell to engage with a corresponding rake element, wherein each shell comprises a flexible housing formed on each side plane of the shell for elastically receiving the flaps from the side arms of a corresponding rake element;

wherein upon pressing upon the lever, the intermediate tube is moved in a downward direction pressing upon the top portion of the rake elements to thereby tilt open the shells of the capsule.

4. (new) The waste collection device according to claim 1, wherein the two shells comprise
- a first shell having a perimeter flange along its open side, and
 - a larger second shell having internal dimplings along a perimeter edge of its open side for retaining the perimeter flange of the first shell when the first shell is engaged with the second shell in opposing directions, thereby forming the capsule in a closed position.
5. (new) The waste collection device according to claim 1, further comprising
- a push button integrally connected with the internal tube to run through the intermediate tube, the internal tube terminating into a stem surrounded by an expulsion spring, the stem having a bottom end attached to an expulsion plate;
 - wherein upon pressing the push button downward, the internal tube is shifted downward against the expulsion spring, thereby depressing the stem and the expulsion plate downward, in turn the expulsion plate presses against the shells of the capsule to release the capsule from the rake elements for disposal.